

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-11 NEA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W

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P R 091858Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1377

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

INFO CONUSFORAT

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0015

11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUB: : AZOREAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON DAO 109 (091635Z)

1. NEITHER VASCO LIMA NOR JORGE MOURA CALLED CONSULATE ON JANUARY 9 AND MOURA'S BROTHER SAID MOURA WAS NOT EXPECTED TO COME TO PONTA DELGADA ON THIS TRIP TO THE AZORES.
2. ALTHOUGH IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN TALK OF INDEPENDENCE THIS HAS BEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF AN UNDESIRABLE ALTERNATIVE WHICH MIGHT BE FORCED ON THE AZORES IF THE GOP DOES NOT MODIFY THE NEW DECREE LAW WHICH REDUCES THE AUTHORITY OF THE JUNTA REGIONAL. TWO JUNTA MEMBERS HAVE TIES TO FLA, BUT THEY STRONGLY PREFER EXTENSIVE AUTONOMY TO INDEPENDENCE AND WOULD ONLY FAVOR INDEPENDENCE IF GOP REFUSES TO ALLOW THE AZORES THIS TYPE OF AUTONOMY.
3. HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO SPREAD THE TRUTH HERE ABOUT THE THREE CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS AND AM SURE THAT SOME FLA MEMBERS HAVE HEARD IT BY NOW.

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4. ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT SPOKEN TO THE TRAVELLING MOTA

AMARAL IN SEVERAL WEEKS, HIS CLOSE COLLABORATORS (WHO ARE MORE VOLATILE THAN HE) CONTINUE TO PREFER A STRONG AUTONOMY TO INDEPENDENCE. IF MOTA AMARAL CHANGED HIS POSITION, BELIEVE HIS COLLABORATORS WOULD ALSO.

5. ONLY RUMORS THAT WE HAVE HEARD HERE RE CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY ARE LINKED TO MELO ANTUNES RECENT TRIP TO IRAQ. STORY IS THAT IRAQ HAS OFFERED 30 OR 35 MILLION DOLLARS TO AZORES, MELO ANTUNES HEARD THE MONEY WAS AVAILABLE AND WENT AFTER IT BUT IRAQUIS TOLD HIM MONEY NOT FOR PORTUGAL ONLY FOR AZORES. THE U.S. THEREFORE MUST HAVE CHANGED ITS POLICY ON THE AZORES IN ORDER TO KEEP OUT THE ARABS WHO WOULD DEMAND U.S. LEAVE LAJES.
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